



Security Council

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Letter dated 31 December 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) to the Security Council containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2012.

(Signed) Peter Wittig
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)



Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the present report is to provide a factual summary of the Committee's activities during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012, in accordance with the transparency measures outlined by the President of the Security Council in his note of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234). The previous report of the Committee provided a summary of the Committee's activities from its establishment on 17 June 2011 to 31 December 2011 (S/2012/543).

II. Background information

2. Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, the Council agreed to elect the Bureau of the Committee for 2012, which consisted of Ambassador Peter Wittig (Germany) as Chair, with the delegations of Guatemala and the Russian Federation providing the two Vice-Chairs (see S/2012/2/Rev.2). The Committee was guided in the discharge of its mandate by Security Council resolution 1988 (2011) as well as by other relevant resolutions. In accordance with paragraph 31 of resolution 1988 (2011), the Committee was supported by the New York-based Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established under paragraph 7 of resolution 1526 (2004) ("the Monitoring Team").

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

3. During 2012, the Committee continued to fulfil its mandate to manage sanctions (the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo) against individuals and entities designated as being associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan. In February and August, the Committee approved its programme of work, based on the requirements outlined in Council resolution 1988 (2011). The Committee also agreed to continuously update its programme of work to allow for flexibility and responsiveness in its work. The Committee held eight informal consultations during the reporting period.

4. In 2012, the Committee approved 16 updates of 1988 (2011) Sanctions List entries and narrative summaries of reasons for listing, thereby further improving the quality of the list and narrative summaries.

Cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan

5. Resolution 1988 (2011) makes specific provisions for enhanced cooperation among the Committee, the Government of Afghanistan, and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). They have been reflected in the work of the Committee during the reporting period.

6. On 27 November, the Chair of the High Peace Council took part in a dialogue with the Committee members during the Committee's informal consultations. The

Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr. Zahir Tanin, participated in two discussions during the Committee's informal consultations held in March and June 2012. The Committee also met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Mr. Jan Kubiš, during the Committee's informal consultations in March and December 2012. The discussion during these meetings centred on the implementation and effectiveness of the 1988 (2011) sanctions regime in support of the Afghan-led peace process.

7. On two occasions in 2012, the Committee received and discussed reports from the Government of Afghanistan on the status of reportedly reconciled individuals who had been delisted in 2010 and 2011, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 22 of resolution 1988 (2011). The Monitoring Team has been working closely with the Afghan authorities and UNAMA to aid in the submission of those reports.

Maintenance and dissemination of the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List

8. Keeping the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List as updated and accurate as possible greatly promotes effective implementation of the sanctions measures. Moreover, the Committee continued to ensure that the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List is responsive to and supportive of the Afghan-led peace process.

9. In January 2012, and pursuant to paragraphs 25 (a), (b) and (c) of resolution 1988 (2011), the Committee finalized its first round of specialized reviews of list entries that was initiated late in 2011: reviews of individuals whom the Afghan Government considers to be reconciled; reviews of individuals and entities whose entries lack identifiers necessary to ensure effective implementation of the measures; and reviews of individuals reportedly deceased. In 2012, the Committee concluded two further rounds of such reviews.

10. In the context of the reviews of individuals whom the Afghan Government considers to be reconciled, a total of 15 individuals were reviewed by the Committee in 2012. In January 2012, 11 individuals were reviewed, 1 of whom was delisted in March 2012 and 2 were deceased. In July 2012, the Committee reviewed 12 individuals (8 individuals from the previous review and 4 new individuals), 3 of whom were delisted. In December, the Committee reviewed nine remaining individuals. The Committee is currently considering the delisting requests for two such individuals. In total, four reconciled individuals were delisted in 2012.

11. Furthermore, the Committee reviewed 15 names on the List who are reportedly deceased. In five cases, information was obtained by the Monitoring Team that the individuals were still alive. Ten individuals remain under consideration as deceased, and the Committee is currently considering the delisting of one individual. None of the listed entities are defunct.

12. The Committee also reviewed 24 entries lacking sufficient identifying information for the effective implementation of the sanctions measures. In this context, one name was removed from the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List, while additional identifying information was added to 14 entries. The nine remaining entries are all individuals for whom only the information on nationality is lacking. The Committee and the Monitoring Team continue to engage with Member States to gather information on the nationality of those individuals. All four entities on the list have sufficient identifiers for effective implementation of the sanctions.

13. Those extensive review mechanisms will ensure that the list is as accurate and up-to-date as possible, reflects the evolving context in Afghanistan and supports the peace and reconciliation process.

14. The Committee removed the names of 5 individuals from the 1988 (2011) List and it added the names of 10 individuals and 4 entities during the reporting period. The Committee has also amended 56 entries with additional or updated information. Those updates have reduced significantly the number of entries lacking sufficient identifiers for effective implementation of the relevant measures. As of December 2012, the Committee had posted on its website 134 narrative summaries for individuals and entities associated with the Taliban.

15. To promote rapid dissemination and effective implementation, the Committee continued to issue a press release, a note verbale and electronic notification to contact points in Permanent Missions in New York and in capitals following each update of the 1988 (2011) List.

16. Pursuant to paragraphs 17 and 24 of resolution 1988 (2011), the Committee's secretariat notifies the Permanent Mission of the relevant country or countries regarding the listing or delisting of individuals or entities within three working days. These include the country or countries where the concerned individual or entity is believed to be located, and in the case of individuals, the country of which the person is a national. Such notifications remind relevant States that they are required to take, in accordance with their domestic laws and practices, all possible measures to notify or inform in a timely manner the concerned individuals and entities of the Committee's decision to add them to or remove them from the 1988 (2011) List, as well as provide them with relevant information.

17. The Committee looked forward to periodic reporting, as appropriate, on the linkages between Al-Qaida and those individuals, groups, undertakings, or entities eligible for designation under paragraph 1 of resolution 1988 (2011), as mandated in annex 1 (u) of Security Council resolution 1988 (2011).

Exemptions to the sanctions measures

18. During the reporting period, the Committee considered notifications and requests for exemptions to the assets freeze and the travel ban, mindful that the Security Council provided for exemptions to those sanctions, including for humanitarian purposes and in cases directly related to supporting efforts by the Government of Afghanistan to promote reconciliation. The notifications and requests are submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 1988 (2011), as well as to paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006) regarding available exemptions with regard to measures in paragraph 1 (a) of resolution 1988 (2011). The secretariat also maintained and regularly updated the list of States that have approached the Committee pursuant to the above-mentioned resolutions. In 2012, the Committee received one notification pursuant to resolution 1452 (2002), two exemptions to the travel ban requests pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), and one request for an extension of the exemption to the travel ban.

List implementation of the sanctions measures

19. During 2012, the Committee continued to receive notes verbales from Member States and relevant entities within Member States informing the Committee about their implementation of the 1988 (2011) sanctions measures.

Briefings by the Chair of the Committee to the Security Council

20. The Chair gave one briefing to the Security Council in 2012, which was held on 30 January. In his statement, the Chair informed the Council about the current and future activities of the Committee and the Monitoring Team. The briefing focused on the Committee's cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan on the efforts by the Committee to ensure that the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List is up-to-date and accurate, and on enhancing the effective implementation of the sanctions measures.

Outreach to Member States and regional organizations

21. In the past year, the Committee continued to develop its cooperation with international and regional organizations and agencies, often with the support of the Monitoring Team.

22. The Committee has continued its cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), including through the issuance of INTERPOL United Nations Security Council Special Notices designed to alert relevant national law enforcement authorities responsible for sanctions implementation that individuals or entities are subject to Security Council sanctions measures. The notices are available from www.interpol.int/Public/NoticesUN. On 10 and 11 October 2012, representatives from the secretariat met with INTERPOL in New York to discuss new technology and approaches to improve efficiency in the publication of Special Notices.

23. The Committee continued to update its website (www.un.org/sc/committees/1988), which contains information and documentation related to the work of the Committee, including the most up-to-date version of the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List, and the narrative summaries of reasons for listing.

IV. Additional activities of the Monitoring Team

24. In addition to the support the Monitoring Team provided to the Committee in undertaking its work, the Team was also involved in the activities described below.

25. The Monitoring Team remained focused on removing the entries lacking identifiers sufficient for implementation of the measures. Throughout the year, the Team visited Afghanistan three times, in February, July and September. In the course of those visits conducted through support from UNAMA and the Afghan Government, the Team met with military intelligence officers from the regional headquarters of the Afghan National Army, and with provincial police and security officials of Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktya, Wardak and Zabul. The team also visited Pakistan in November 2012. As a result of the travel undertaken, the Team was able to obtain information on places and dates of birth for all listed individuals.

26. The Team participated in a workshop hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna in March, bringing together Financial Intelligence Units from the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Afghanistan to discuss hawaladars and other non-formal money transfer systems within a Countering Financing of Terrorism context. The group of Financial Intelligence Units decided to stay in contact and aim for another meeting next year. The Team also participated in the relevant Financial Action Task Force forums.

27. The Team reached out numerous times to INTERPOL, attending the General Assembly and addressing participants in the workshops on sanctions implementation hosted by INTERPOL throughout 2012 in Rome and Bratislava.

V. Future work of the Committee

28. The Committee will continue to ensure that the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List contributes effectively to ongoing efforts to combat the insurgency and support the work of the Government of Afghanistan to advance reconciliation in order to bring about peace, stability and security in Afghanistan. It remains dedicated to keeping the List and the narrative summaries as up-to-date and accurate as possible and will conduct all reviews necessary in this regard.

29. The Committee remains committed to its fruitful and close cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan and encourages relevant Afghan authorities to continue submitting new listing and delisting requests.

30. The Committee continues to stand ready, with the support of the Monitoring Team, to assist States in their implementation of the sanctions measures in support of the Afghan-led peace process.
